AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A composite material comprising:

a first component which is a ~~metal~~ phosphate of a metal selected from the group consisting of: Fe, V, Mn, and combinations thereof; and

a second component which is selected from the group consisting of: metal nitrides, metal oxynitrides, and combinations thereof.

2. (Original) The material of claim 1, wherein said metal phosphate is a lithiated metal phosphate.

3. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein said first component comprises a core and said second component is present on at least a portion of the surface of said core.

4. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein said second component is disposed in at least a portion of the bulk of said first component.

5-6 (Canceled)

7. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein said first component has an olivine or nasicon structure.

8. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein said second component is selected from the group consisting of transition metal nitrides, transition metal oxynitrides, and combinations thereof.

9. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, further including a dopant.

10. (Original) The composite material of claim 9, wherein said dopant is selected from the group consisting of: carbon, a metal ion having a +2 valence, a metal ion having a +3 valence, Nb^{+5}, Zr^{+4}, Ti^{+4}, W^{+6}, and combinations thereof.

11. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein said first component is substitutionally doped at the phosphate site by a member selected from the group consisting of: halogens, $(SO_4)^{-2}$, $(SiO_4)^{-4}$, $(TiO_4)^{-4}$, $(AlO_3)^{-3}$, and combinations thereof.

12. (Currently amended) An electrode comprising a composite material, said composite material comprising: a first component which is a ~~metal~~ phosphate of a metal selected from the group consisting of: Fe, V, Mn, and combinations thereof, and a second component which is selected from the group consisting of: metal nitrides, metal oxynitrides, and combinations thereof.

13. (Original) The electrode of claim 12, wherein said metal phosphate is a lithiated metal phosphate.

14. (Original) The electrode of claim 12, wherein said first component comprises a core and said second component is present on at least a portion of the surface of said core.

15. (Original) The electrode of claim 12, wherein said second component is dispersed in at least a portion of the bulk of said first component.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The electrode of claim 16, wherein said second component is selected from the group consisting of transition metal nitrides, transition metal oxynitrides, and combinations thereof.

18. (Original) The electrode of claim 12, where said metal phosphate has an olivine or a nasicon structure.

19. (Original) The electrode of claim 12, wherein said composite material includes a dopant.

20-32 (Canceled)

33. (New) A composite material comprising:

a first component which is a metal phosphate; and

a second component which is selected from the group consisting of: transition metal nitrides, transition metal oxynitrides, and combinations thereof.

34. (New) The material of claim 33, wherein said metal phosphate is a lithiated metal phosphate.